

**Virginia Advisory Committee Meeting
for
Career and Technical Education**

**September 23, 2008
Plumbers and Steamfitters Local
Roanoke, Virginia**

MINUTES

In attendance:

Virginia Jones, Byron Hinton, Dr. Brenda Long, Elizabeth Russell, Sandy Hespe, Jerry Stewart, Judy Sorrell, Toney Rigali, Theresa Bryant, John Cotton, Alan Hawthorne

Judy Sorrell (Judy), on behalf of Mike Mills, called the meeting to order and welcomed the group to Roanoke-- the group then introduced themselves. Toney Rigali introduced Steve Martin, Business Manager of the Plumbers and Steamfitters Local—Steve welcomed the group to the facility.

Minutes:

The minutes from the June 16, 2008 meeting were distributed and approved.

Role of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee (Past to Present)

Elizabeth Russell (Liz) presented this information: Originally this committee was a federal requirement through the Perkins Act. Later Perkins' Acts did not require the advisory committees, but Virginia chose to continue to require. This committee serves as an advisory committee to the Board of Education. There is another CTE State Advisory Committee that is purely legislative and does not have contact with this committee. Our committee is supportive of a variety of initiatives/programs including the continuing expansion of industry certifications and the development of Governor's Academies. From the legislative side, Brenda Long (Brenda) and John Ledgerwood, as Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education's (VACTE) legislative persons, have been instrumental in raising the bar for CTE. Brenda serves as a liaison from VACTE to the State CTE Advisory Committee at the request of the Executive Committee.

Our committee also developed a Local Advisory Handbook which is now available on DVD.

Legislative Items:

Brenda presented this information. There are several issues included in the public hearings scheduled for October 30, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. Brenda reminded committee to not speak as a member of the State Advisory Committee at these meetings, but urged the committee to speak as a community member, parent or as members of local advisory committees. The Standard Technical Diploma is a big issue and one that will certainly be discussed at the public hearings. Some concerns with this proposal are that the requirements are the same as the current standard diploma with no rigor added. Also, students will still not be prepared for higher levels of postsecondary education and no CTE seal will be awarded for this diploma as proposed. 45.1% of CTE completers in 2007 – 2008 received an Advanced Studies Diploma, so why would we want to endorse a diploma that does not exceed the current Standard Diploma requirement. A summary of this draft proposal has been sent to counselors to make them aware of what is being proposed.

Brenda also explained what VACTE and VACTEA mean: VACTE is the statewide association for Career & Technical Education and serves as the “umbrella” for a number of organizations including VACTEA which is the Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators.

CTE In Virginia:

Judy explained that Perkins is the federal grant that supports CTE. It is up to each state to distribute funds. Liz went on to explain what is going on across the state in CTE: Eighteen months ago, a grant was awarded from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the National Governor’s Association to promote STEM. Virginia won one of these grants and utilized it to begin the Governor’s Career and Technical Academies initiative. There were 15 applications submitted to the Virginia Department of Education — 6 were chosen. Initially, \$20,000 was awarded for planning purposes, the plan was then presented to the Board of Education and if approved, then \$100,000 was awarded to implement the grant. One of the requirements of the grant is to promote dual enrollment. The project (STEM) coordinator is Dr. Lois Williams. One of the concerns, however, is the continuity of this grant due to the fact that the grant ends in June 2009.

In regards to the state budget crisis, state agencies have been asked to prepare budgets with three scenarios: 5%, 10%, and 15% decrease in budget amounts. At this time, all state agencies are still waiting for further directions.

The course competencies in the Trade & Industrial (T & I) program area needed to be changed to meet Perkins requirements. Until last year all of the 2-3 year programs had the same competencies. The first task was to work with T & I lead teachers to separate the competencies for each level. The result of this is that in some instances, the third year might be eliminated if there are not enough

competencies. These third year courses are in transition and the final decision may result in one of three options: expansion of current competencies to provide enough for a third year; reduce the course to a one hour course; or eliminate the third year.

In 2004-2005 there were 6,500+ industry credentials earned across the state. This year there were 15,475. This is a large increase due in no small part to the fact that a revenue stream was created to fund this initiative. At this time, 30 school divisions have not had any industry credentialing. As part of Perkins, beginning in 2008-2009, 33% of CTE completers need to have taken an industry credentialing, that percentage will eventually increase to 100%. Local school divisions can use local Perkins dollars to fund, after all state allocations have been exhausted. Passing the Virginia NOCTI Workplace Readiness Skills assessment plus one section of IC3 will meet the industry credential requirement. A complete listing of approved industry credentials are on the state website at http://www.doe.virginia.gov/VDOE/Instruction/CTE/apg/apg_sec10cert.doc.

Dual enrollment continues to be an issue across the state due mainly to the inconsistency of the Virginia Community College System (VCCS).

Virginia Tech is now utilizing the National Student Clearing House to gather more data for the follow-up report of CTE completers as well as more detailed data. Currently Virginia Tech is utilizing this additional data for the 2002 CTE completers to follow them through 2008. Plans are to request information for CTE completers in years after 2002 with the hope to provide long-term data for analysis.

The CTE Resource Center in Henrico County continues to be contracted by the Department of Education (DOE) to perform a number of activities supporting CTE—the focus, however, continues to be curriculum development. CTE in Virginia depends heavily on the work done at the Center.

Creating a Plan/Vision for the State CTE Advisory Committee:

Judy recommended due to time constraints that we make this an agenda item for our next meeting. Some suggestions as to how to start this process:

- find out what is going on in localities;
- set up sub-groups to look at performance standards;
- explore workforce development opportunities for students as we need to replenish the workforce;
- focus on middle school career foundation development, including the need for career coaches;
- conduct Career Fairs;
- involve community; and
- engage guidance counselors and make sure they are on board with Career Clusters, pathways, industry certification requirements, just to name a few.

Liz will email a questionnaire that we did not have time to explore during our meeting.

Board of Education Presentation: This is part of the requirements of this committee according to the by-laws. Recommendations can certainly be made and support of academics is certainly encouraged.

Plans for upcoming meetings:

January 15, 2009 – Richmond – in conjunction with the VACTE Conference, begins at 10:00 a.m.

April 23, 2009 – Fairfax or Abingdon, location TBD, begins at 10:00 a.m.

June, 2009 – Richmond (date TBD by Creating Excellence Awards event which is held in Richmond), begins at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Hespe
Secretary